

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7250

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR STONE FROM AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CY, TU, GR
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL RELATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH GEORGE PELAGHIAS

REF: TELECON OF AUGUST 21, 1978

1. GEORGE PELAGHIAS, THE CYPRIOT MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND AN OLD FRIEND, CAME TO SEE ME AUGUST 19 WHILE HE WAS IN ATHENS EN ROUTE BACK TO NICOSIA FROM MOSCOW. AMONG OTHER THINGS, PELAGHIAS SAID THAT THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE INTERCOMMUNAL PARTIES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. HE WOULD, THEREFORE, ARGUE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROPOSALS AND THAT THESE MIGHT INDEED BE DEVELOPED BY OUTSIDE POWERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. PROPOSALS WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE BLESSED BY THE UN AND THE INTERCOMMUNAL PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO AT LEAST "LOOK AT THEM WITH OPEN MINDS." HE WENT ON TO REASON THAT HE SEES NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO PRODUCING PROGRESS NOW BUT ADMITTED HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN HOW THE GOC WOULD REGARD HIS ENTREATY.

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2. WHATEVER PROPOSALS ARE JOINED TO START UP NEGOTIATIONS, A "SINCE QUA NON" WOULD CALL FOR A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH FORCES, PELGHIAS ADDED. THE TIMETABLE COULD BE WORKED OUT DURING THE TALKS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETING WITHDRAWAL AS OPTIMUM AS NEAR TO THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AS POSSIBLE. ANY SETTLEMENT MIGHT THEN ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF FORCES, AS IS THE CASE UNDER THE

GUARANTORS AGREEMENTS.

3. OTHERWISE, PELAGHIAS CONTENDED THAT ALL IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA WERE NOW RESOLVED AS A RESULT OF KYPRIANOU'S MEETINGS WITH KARAMANLIS AND THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE "IN STEP."

4. AS FOR HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW, HE DESCRIBED THE SOVIETS AS MERELY GIVING "LIP SERVICE" TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE, SPECULATING THAT MORE HAD DEVELOPED THAN MET THE EYE DURING TURKISH PRIME MINISTER'S ECEVIT'S RECENT VISIT THERE AND MOSCOW WAS SENSITIVE TO ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS THAT WOULD OFFEND ANKARA.

MCCLOSKEY

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